



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HOSTS RUSSIAN JURISTS
Visitors Tour BOE Headquarters, Learn about CA Tax Law

The Board of Equalization (BOE) today hosted five visiting Russian judges who are on a weeklong tour of American judicial and legal systems being coordinated by Chief Judge Michael S. McManus of US Bankruptcy Court's Eastern District.

BOE Chairman John Chiang welcomed the delegates via telephone. Senior BOE staff then spoke to the group on the laws and administration practices for sales and uses tax, property tax, and other revenue and regulatory programs the BOE administers.

Staff also took the delegates on a tour of the Board Hearing room, and explained the quasi-judicial body's appeals process.

The delegates spent the earlier part of the week visiting sights in San Francisco and Sacramento, including a tour of the State Capitol.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board, and is comprised of Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; Chair John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District; and State Controller Steve Westly.

The Board collects more than \$44 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

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